

Open Letter To President

Washington, D. C. Dec. 15, 1909
My dear Mr. President:

I stated in my last letter that I would discuss the Liberian question, but, as I have not finished the discussion concerning the colored office-holders, I have decided to defer the Liberian question until after you have considered colored appointments. As I understand that you will make very shortly, I also understand or rather it is rumored that you will displace the one year appointees among your colored allies for new colored politicians. If this rumor is true, I regret it because the removal of one colored man who has held office only one year appoint another colored man is no benefit to the race. Why should this obtain among the colored people? I notice that you have reappointed Mr. Palmer, United States Marshal for the District of Columbia; this makes his fourth term. Register Vernon, Auditor Tyler and Charles Anderson have not held office one term as yet, and I think that these applicants for their jobs should be given to understand that the occupants of these offices are to serve another term and then you would not be bothered. There is a great deal of unrest in this country among colored Americans. They want recognition of some kind. They claim that the time has come for the colored Americans to show their political influence. In this city there are nearly ninety thousand colored people and they are not considered for a moment. There are several separate and distinct organizations of white men that claim to control the affairs of this government and when the people of color make a demand for recognition they are told to be notified with what they have. They have nothing, Mr. President to lose. Everything has been taken from them and whenever the mob feels disposed it takes the lives of these helpless colored Americans without judge or jury. Don't you think it is time for you to act? Don't you think that the people in this city are entitled to the office of Recorder of Deeds, in the event you decide to make a change in that office? If it is your intention to bring in an outsider, the people would prefer that you allow Mr. Dancy to remain. If Mr. Dancy is removed and an outside colored man is appointed, the appointment will only please that particular individual. I understand that every State in this union has a colored candidate for the recorder's office. There are only two colored candidates in this city, Mr. President, why not consider their claims and take the wishes of the people as to the fitness of one or both. If Mr. Dancy is removed and an outsider is appointed in his place he gets no credit for leading the fight in the last campaign, Mr. President, for you. Do you know that the Negroes in this country, at the beginning of the campaign, was about to mob him for advocating your nomination and election? Do you know, Mr. President, that Register Vernon, Auditor Tyler were two of your most loyal advocates. The Bee, of course, not excepted? If the official ax is to fall upon their necks, I can only say, gratitude where is thy charm? I want to see the colored men now holding office remain in and make a few places for the wolves on the outside. There is a great deal of unrest, Mr. President, among the colored politicians. I am telling you what others will not tell you. I know that you want to be informed of the unrest in this country among colored Americans and suggest to you a remedy. I am of the opinion, Mr. President, that a few new places for the proper men will give entire satisfaction. But, if you appoint men who don't represent anything or anybody, you will be convinced that The Bee is a prophet. I don't mean to dictate to you, Mr. President, but, merely to suggest to you and inform you that the colored people in this country are dissatisfied and that they are more than anxious that you do something at once.

I also desire to call your attention

to the police court of this city. There are several applicants to succeed Judge Kimball. So far as Judge Kimball is concerned, he knows no man by the color of his skin. He may be severe; if he is he does no more than carry out the law as he sees it. I see no reason why he should be removed. He is honest. What more?

You know, Mr. President, there are some people, in this country, who are never satisfied, no matter what you do for them. Take for instance the Democratic party South. You have given to that party, every best office to the exclusion of colored Republicans and when the terms of the colored office-holders have expired, the rumor is, no more colored men will be appointed. Grover Cleveland, although a Democrat, gave the South to understand that no man should be removed on account of his color. He would not permit those who were inimical to colored Americans to dictate to him. What is about the colored man, South that he should not be appointed to an office? Is it fair to bar a man simply because he is colored? You are the president of the people; you are the man to whom the nation will look for protection.

Give the South to understand Mr. President that you know no man by the color of his skin, but recognize all citizens of the United States, true Americans and they must and shall be protected and recognized according to merit.

Relative to the coming appointment of colored men let them be worthy. Please give the District of Columbia some recognition. Bring no more outsiders to this city for District offices. If you will follow this policy the people will appreciate you. Until I write again, believe me to be Yours truly,

The Editor.

THE MORRILL FUND

The proposition to have the Morrill fund apply to the District of Columbia as well as to the States has just been presented to Congress. The purpose of this fund is to encourage the several States to prosecute the scientific study of agriculture. For geographical purposes, the District of Columbia has a distinct position, on a footing with the States and Territories. In population and general importance, it is by no means the least among the grand divisions. There seems to be no good reason why it should not share equally with the States in this provision to promote the application of science to agricultural pursuits.

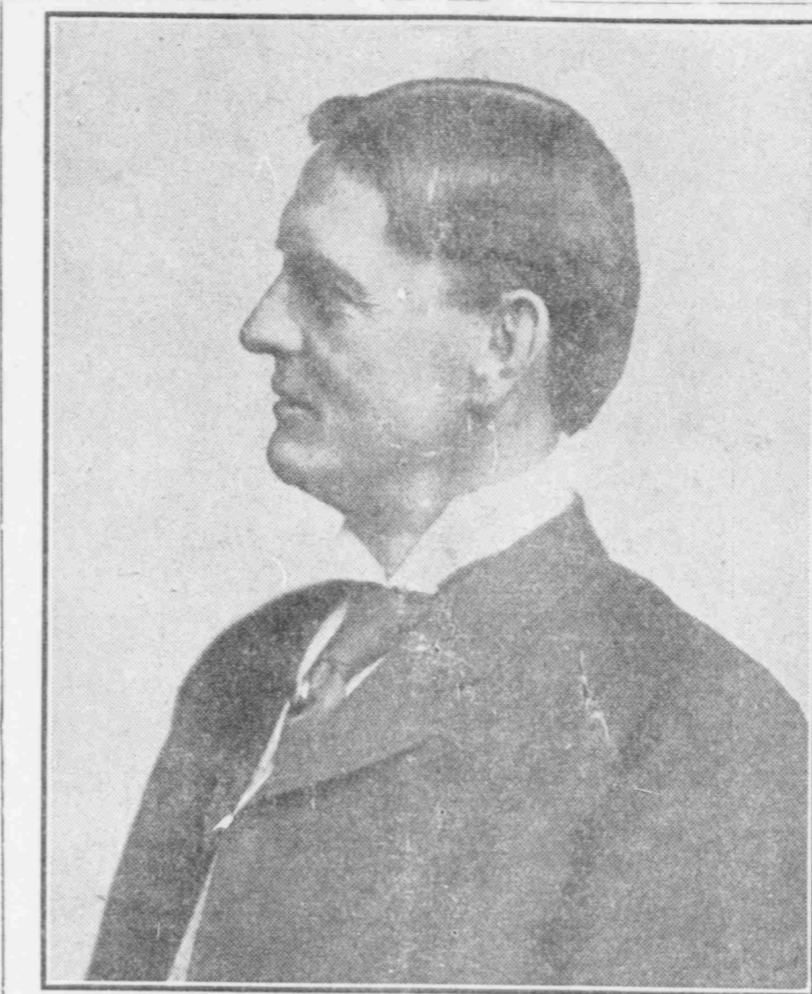
The fact that the District has little agricultural area is hardly an effective argument against the proposition. The apportionment is not made on the basis of agricultural area; if so, Rhode Island and Delaware would not receive the same amount as Texas and Pennsylvania. The incidental advantages of Washington are superior to those of any State for the location of an agricultural college. The Department of Agriculture, with its great facilities easily accessible, would enable the student to perfect himself in this branch of practical knowledge to a degree that would be impossible elsewhere.

In States where the two races are taught in separate schools, the Morrill fund is distributed between them on the basis of numerical strength. This equitable principle will, of course, prevail in the District of Columbia.

The George Washington University and Howard University are the institutions for the racial allotment of this fund. The work to be accomplished should be of the highest scientific character.

Agriculture furnishes today the most fertile field for the application of science to the practical affairs of life.

Aside from its purely utilitarian value, there are few fields that arouse so deep an interest on the part of the student or quicken such enthusiasm or offer so wide an opportunity for originality and research. There is certainly as much quickening power



HONORABLE THOMAS RAY HAMER, OF IDAHO

in the living roots of growing plants as in the dry roots of a dead language. The allotment of the National one hundred and sixty acres University would be of the greatest significance to the colored race. This institution stands out conspicuously in the eye of the nation as the national university for colored youth. Congress has just established here a science hall at a total cost of \$9,000, which will shortly be completed and equipped with adequate facilities for up-to-date work in physics, chemistry, and biology. The first outlet of these sciences is the medical department. The natural step is scientific agriculture.

Statistics show that 85 per cent. of the Negro race derives their living directly from the soil. Although there are agricultural schools in the several States built upon the basis of this Morrill fund, still there is no such institution in all the land with adequate scientific equipment and a competent student body to pursue agricultural science of collegiate grade.

In this respect an agricultural department at Howard University would answer the needs of the whole race. A goodly number of colored men trained in the principles of agriculture, with exact knowledge and methods, who might serve as teachers and general directors of the race in agricultural pursuits throughout the South, is one of the great demands of the situation. This demand Howard University is prepared to supply. Independent of this fund, the authorities of this institution are planning to enlarge the scope of the university by establishing a department of technology and a department of agriculture, which, together with the medical school, will furnish ample scope for the application of exact scientific knowledge to the practical pursuits of the race.

The unique relation of Howard University to our national race problem and its peculiar preparedness to render this high-grade scientific service to the nation is by all odds the strongest reason why Congress should extend the application of the Morrill fund to cover the District of Columbia.

Kelly Miller.

DEFENDS NEGRO RECORD

Denied That He Is Lacking In Patriotism

Rev. Dr. Nelms Challenged to Prove Truth of Assertions to Sons of American Revolution. The recent lecture of Rev. Dr. J. Henning Nelms before the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, in which he is described the Negro as lacking in the higher ideals of patriotism, and suggested that one of the labors the society should undertake was the teaching of what true patriotism stands for, was condemned by a mass meeting of colored residents in the Second Baptist Lyceum Sunday afternoon.

Resolutions were adopted challenging Rev. Dr. Nelms to prove his assertions.

Richard E. S. Toomey presided. William H. Ferris, Perri W. Frisby, J. H. Stewart, Rev. James D. Crothers and others spoke on the patriotism of the American Negro.

Nation's History Reviewed. The first speaker, after reviewing the history of the nation from the revolutionary days through the Spanish war, declared that members of the race were never found wanting in patriotism. The speaker declared that Negroes were with Balboa at the discovery of the Pacific Ocean, with Cortez in Mexico, and were members of the transcontinental expeditions of Fremont and Clark.

As proof of the patriotism of the race, the speaker told of the 186,000 Negroes enlisted for service in the Civil War, and their conduct in several battles, their participation in the battles of Bunker Hill and Lake Erie and their courage in Cuba in the war with Spain.

"When an unbiased and unprejudiced person reviews these historical events," the speaker said, "how can he doubt the black man's patriotism? Rather the person would be constrained to believe that the Negro is a member of the human family and can rise to deeds of heroism or mount the summits of achievement."

Unchanging Allegiance. Perri W. Frisby said that though the Negro has been ostracised and proscribed by many of his white brothers of the country, he has never wavered in his allegiance to the nation. J. H. Stewart declared despite the position of many of the race and their crying wants there were no Negro anarchists or bombthrowers.

Rev. James D. Crothers described the mental progress of the race and its desire to be considered a part of the country's loyal and devoted population. He pleaded for fair play for the black man at all times and declared the race would not be found wanting.

The meeting was an enthusiastic one and lasted for several hours. The resolutions were adopted without dissent. A copy of them will probably be forwarded to Rev. Dr. Nelms.

DR. WASHINGTON'S GOOD WORK

Last August at Louisville, Ky., the National Negro Business League passed a resolution empowering its president, Dr. Booker T. Washington, to proceed to formulate plans for holding in 1913 a semi-Centennial Celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Last month Dr. Washington laid the matter before President Taft and the latter immediately gave his approval of the plan, and in his annual message transmitted to Congress, Monday, December 6, not only endorsed the proposition, but requested

permission of Congress to appoint a Commission to consider plans, etc., for holding such an exposition. To carry out the President's suggestion and at the request and suggestion of leading officers of the National Negro Business League, and other interested bodies, Congressman E. L. Taylor, Jr., of Ohio, member of the House Committee on Appropriations and Congressman William A. Rodenberg, chairman of the House Committee on Industrial Arts and Expositions, have together offered the following joint resolution, which was introduced in Congress Tuesday of this week:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint a commission consisting of seven persons to consider carefully whether or not it is advisable to hold an exposition in the United States in the year nineteen hundred and thirteen to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation granting freedom to the Negroes; and that the said commission report to Congress on the first Monday in December, nineteen hundred and ten.

Sec. 2. That to enable said commission to carry out the purpose of this Act, the sum of five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby authorized to be expended. The members of said commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be paid their necessary expenses, and disbursements made under this Act shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury on vouchers approved by the Chairman of said Commission.

SCIPIO AFRICANUS JONES. Distinguished Attorney in Town. Attorney Scipio Africanus Jones, of Little Rock, Ark., was in the city this week accompanied by his daughter, who is on her way to North Carolina. Mr. Jones is a native of Little Rock, Ark.; president of the Negro Business League of that State, one of the largest organizations in the country; he was at one time delegate to the National Republican convention and one of the big Republicans to throw Arkansas into the Taft column. Fifteen dele-



gates voted for Mr. Taft from Arkansas. Mr. Jones was elected from a white Republican district. He is president of the Arkansas Realty and Trust Company, a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States and has a large legal practice in his State. The entire State of Arkansas is urging President Taft to appoint him to a position under the Federal Government. Rumor has it that he would not object to the office of recorder of deeds if President Taft intends to make a change.

THE BEE WOULD LIKE TO SEE. Honest men keep honest promises. A man who makes a mistake correct it before he is compelled to do so.

The Negro Business League a factor in the city.

President Taft appoint more colored men to office and retain those who are in.

The medical profession a factor in this city.

District men appointed to District offices.

READ THE BEE.

PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

Miss Gonia B. Maxfield

It is said a petition signed by fully 5,000 persons, has been forwarded to Secretary of War Dickinson, to be presented to President Taft, asking pardon for Sheriff J. E. Shipp, permitting the lynching of a Negro prisoner.

Andrew Carnegie, in his address who is serving a term in prison for before the members of the "Armstrong Association on the Negro question, said: "The lowest blacks in the South are ahead of his Scotland ancestors of two hundred years ago. No race ever made such progress as the Negroes have in the last forty years. He finished by saying foreign mission is good in its way, but the first duty of the American people is to contribute all we can toward the black race God placed among us."

For the first time in the history of Kansas, a Negro has been appointed postmaster. Hon. W. W. Fisher has received the appointment. Mr. Fisher served in the same capacity, in South Carolina, under President McKinley.

By the will of Charles H. Farmer, Jr., an estate of \$500,000 is left to Yale University, for buildings for the Sheffield Scientific School.

At the sale of the library of Louis I. Haber, in New York, a letter of John Brown, to his wife, in which, under the words, "poor, miserable looking sheep," he disguised the real nature of his occupation, relating to the freeing of slaves, was sold for \$46.00.

Colored Americans can boast of having forty eight banks, controlled successfully by them. Eleven alone are in Mississippi. The youngest of these banks opened 1st of this month in Selma, Ala., and received \$12,114.45. The oldest one is also in Alabama.

Hon. Thos. W. Fleming, who was elected councilman, in Cleveland, Ohio, will be the first colored man to ever have a seat in the Cleveland City Council, and the first in the State of Ohio elected councilman at large.

The first woman to hold position as executive of a State Department is Miss Katie Banard, who is State Commissioner of Charities and Correction in Oklahoma, the manner and term of election being the same as that of governor.

The Langston Negro College of Oklahoma will have soon an additio's share in this fund to Howard Metropolitan Choir. of land, which will give it two hundred and fifty acres. Ninety thousand dollars was appropriated for this school by the first legislature of the new State. Agriculture will be the strongest department in the college.

The will of Charles N. Crittenton, the founder of the Florence Crittenton Missions for Women, Girls and children, which has been filed for probate, will give half of his big estate to the institutions he founded by him, and about \$200,000 to his employees.

Judge Lurton has been nominated as an associate Justice of the Supreme Court, as successor of the late Justice Peckham, who died some time ago.

IT IS RUMORED

Judge Terrell will be reappointed. Judge Kimball is not at all uneasy. You may get worse.

The Senator from Nebraska will protect the teachers.

Senator Gallinger is friend of the school teacher.

No more teachers will be dismissed without trial.

Supervising Principal Jackson is every inch a man. He is level-headed and reliable. Supervising Principal Jackson will succeed because he is honest. He knows what his teachers do, and it is not hearsay.

READ THE BEE.